



Employee information is available online at CityShare and on CityView
at springfieldmo.gov/CityView or on Mediacom 80

Seek adventure

If your idea of enjoying the outdoors is canoeing, mountain biking, orienteering, and a brisk run in the woods then the May 22, Ozark Greenways Adventure Race may be for you. Ozark Greenways will present an informational program at 6 p.m., Tuesday, March 30, at the Lake Springfield Boathouse, on the 2010 Adventure Race and how to participate.

For more information go to www.ozarkgreenways.org or call 864-2014.

Get on the Bench

The Spring-Summer issue of the Springfield-Greene County Park Board's "Park Bench" publication is now available at <http://bit.ly/ParksPrograms2010> or at www.parkboard.org.

The 26-page brochure contains information on spring and summer Park Board activities, programs, special events, a system-wide map and more.

Springfield Source

Visit SpringfieldSource.org for news, information, job openings and social media links for a dozen government and civic organizations in Springfield. You may also sign up for a bi-weekly e-mail newsletter.



Character Education
word of the month:

Trustworthy

To be reliable, to follow through with your responsibilities, and to inspire others to believe in you.

Springfield vying for Google project

Springfield is joining cities across the country in trying to lure Internet search giant Google to come to town to build an ultra high-speed fiber optic network.

The Springfield City Council on March 8 authorized the City to move forward on responding to Google's Request for Information from cities interested in the trial project. Google is seeking responses from communities in the 50,000-to-500,000 population range interested in testing an ultra-fast broadband network that can deliver the Internet more than 100 times faster than most Americans can access it today.

Google has asked for an RFI from municipalities by March 26, and said it would likely choose a city by the end of the year.

Anyone who wants to show their support for

Google to choose Springfield for this "Think Big with a Gig" project can show community support on Facebook at www.facebook.com/googlespringfield or go to www.googlespringfield.com to learn more.

Springfield's application will be developed jointly by

Springfield City Utilities, the City of Springfield, Greene County and the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce.

The partnership's preliminary review of the RFI indicates Springfield is well-suited for the criteria Google has proposed,

particularly its position as a regional hub for business, medical and educational facilities.

There is no application fee to participate in the RFI and Google has indicated it is not seeking any financial assistance from the winning community or communities.



Spring (and pollen) is in the air

You can't see it, but if you're allergic or otherwise sensitive to it, you can always tell when pollen is in the air.



Health Department Lab Scientist Rhizza Adams examines the Burkhard device that captures pollen samples over a 24-hour period. It sits inside a weather vane on the Health Dept. roof.

Pollen, mold and other irritants such as dust particles may not be visible to the naked eye, but Rhizza Adams and her colleagues in the Springfield-Greene County Health Department's lab look at it every day. They use a combination of specialized tools and detailed training to do it, and provide the community with an accurate pollen count for the previous 24 hours each morning.

The Health Department has been taking pollen counts for several years. But with new equipment and some rigorous specialized training undertaken by Adams, the new counts are much more accurate. The old method was based on air samples about 15 minutes long, while the new method measures all 24 hours. It's like the difference between looking out the window to guess the rainfall and using an actual rain gauge.

Adams, 28, was recently certified as a pollen counter by the American College of Allergy, Asthma

➤ See POLLEN on page 6.

ON THE JOB

INSIDE

Fire & Police awards

SFD & SPD honored many employees at two recent ceremonies.

3

Assess your health risks

An online tool helps assess risks related to heart disease, stroke and more.

3

Do You Know?

Meet Jessica Martin and Clay Dodson of the Health Department.

7

Governor Nixon Proclaims March as Public Purchasing Month

To honor and recognize Public Procurement as a profession, and the value that public procurement officials bring to their agencies and taxpayers, Governor Jay Nixon proclaimed March as Public Purchasing Month, on Feb. 17, 2010. The Governor made this proclamation at the request of the Missouri Association of Public Purchasing (MAPP).

The City of Springfield was represented at the proclamation by **Jason Finke**, CPPO, Senior Buyer, and MAPP's Treasurer. In addition, **Jim Tillman**, CPPO, C.P.M., City Purchasing Agent, and Buyers: **Lynn Gates**, C.P.M., **Mike Bell**, and **Scott Menzer** are all members of MAPP. As members, the City's Purchasing Division is dedicated to promoting and ensuring the appropriate, open and fair use of public resources through the competitive bid process. MAPP members also adhere to a strict code of ethics.

MAPP is an affiliate of the National Institute



Jason Finke, second from right, with Gov. Nixon and MAPP members at the Feb. 17 proclamation ceremony.

of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP). The MAPP is a not-for-profit organization comprised of professional buyers and purchasing managers employed by public entities that serve the taxpayers of the State of Missouri. The work-ethic of every MAPP member is represented in the motto: "More Value for the Tax Dollar!"

SCENE
[**SPRINGFIELD CITY**
EMPLOYEE NEWS EXTRA]
Issue # 263

cityshare/The SCENE

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Comments and articles which appear in The SCENE do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of City administration or any employee thereof, but are for information only. Permission to reprint material may be obtained from the Department of Public Information, (417) 864-1010.



MISSION

We are committed to Working with the Community to provide ethical and responsible local government so that everyone can enjoy the benefits of living and working in Springfield.

Upcoming Computer class schedule

Classes are in L46, Busch Municipal Building.

All classes are one day.

Excel Level 1

8:15 a.m.- 4 p.m., April 6 & 14

Excel Level 2

8:15 a.m.- 4 p.m., April 21

Outlook Level 1

8:15 a.m.-4 p.m., May 12

Powerpoint

8:15 a.m.-4 p.m., May 12

Word Level 1

8:15 a.m.-4 p.m., April 28

Word Level 2

8:15 a.m.-4 p.m., May 5

Contact **Judy Stangl** at jstangl@springfieldmo.gov with your requested date.

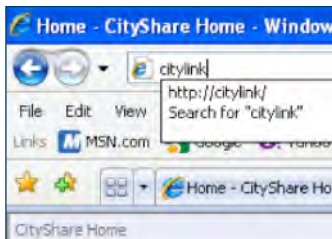
You will receive an e-mail acknowledgement.
(Limit of nine per class.)

Support Center Tips

Shortcuts...

If your CityLink icon is not present on your desktop, open your Internet Explorer and type citylink in the url address, and hit enter. A dialog box will appear where you will click on the Open button.

If you want to **change your password** for Windows at anytime or you want to **match your**



Windows password to your Citylink password ...

Type: **Ctl Alt Del**

The "Change Password" button is on the second row.

If you want to change your password for CityLink at anytime, sign into Citylink. For those who have multiple responsibilities, go to **Edit / Preferences / Change Password**.

If you have Self Service Timecard Responsibility only, you will get into **Self Service Time / Time Entry**. Then **Click** on **Preferences** in the upper right corner. The **Change Password** section is in the middle of the launched dialog box.

SCENE Deadline April 2, 2010

Please direct your submissions to

Mike Brothers in the Department of Public Information. Submissions and ads via e-mail are preferred:

thescene@springfieldmo.gov.



printed on recycled paper

Fire Dept. recognizes distinguished service

Numerous Springfield firefighters were recognized for medical life saves and other forms of distinguished service at the Fire Department's annual awards banquet on March 11. The awards included:

DISTINGUISHED UNIT AWARD

Squad 1 A: **Captain Aaron Wood**, **Rescue Salvage Specialist Andrew Rues**, **Rescue Salvage Specialist Jeffrey Elliot**, and **Rescue Salvage Specialist Brian Schafer**

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR:

Firefighter Jim Burton

FIRE OFFICER OF THE YEAR:

Captain Eric Latimer

MEDICAL LIFE SAVES

- **Truck Captain Brian Athen**, **Equipment Operator Tom McKellips**, and **Firefighter Amanda Iannelli**
- **Engine 1 C: Truck Captain John Grier**,

Equipment Operator David Davis, **Firefighter Darin Miller**, and **Firefighter Ben Houston**

- **Squad 1 C: Captain Eric Latimer**, **Rescue Salvage Specialist Jon White**, and **Rescue Salvage Specialist Justin Merritt**
- **Engine 1 C: Truck Captain John Grier**, **Firefighter Ben Houston**, and **Firefighter Garrett Raney**
- **Engine 2 A: Captain Rusty Darnell**, **Equipment Operator Jason Williams**, and **Firefighter Mark Phillips**
- **Rescue 4 C: Rescue Salvage Specialist Aaron Goddard** and **Firefighter Marc Becker**
- **Engine 10 A: Captain Richard O'Connor**, **Firefighter Brian Stark**, and **Firefighter Daniel Speights**
- **Engine 12 B: Equipment Operator Lee Grover**, **Equipment Operator Lennis Marcotte**, **Firefighter Travis Morrissey**, and **Firefighter Chad Sullivan**

- **Engine 12 B: Captain Andy Woody**, **Equipment Operator Lee Grover**, **Firefighter Travis Morrissey**, and **Firefighter Chad Sullivan**
- **Rescue 4 / Quint 4 A: Rescue Salvage Specialist Robert Davidson**, **Rescue Salvage Specialist Kirt Bliss**, **Equipment Operator Tim Hendrix**, **Firefighter Keith Kenyeri**, and **Firefighter Eric Roepke**

FIRE LIFE SAVE

- **Squad 1 A: Captain Aaron Wood** and **Rescue Salvage Specialist Andrew Rues**
- **Squad 1 C: Rescue Salvage Specialist Justin Merritt** and **Rescue Salvage Specialist Lonnie Stockdale**

ASSIST IN A BIRTH

Engine 12 B: Captain Andy Woody, **Equipment Operator Lee Grover**, **Firefighter Travis Morrissey**, and **Firefighter Chad Sullivan**

Police Sergeant's League honors three

On Feb. 27 the Springfield Police Sergeant's League sponsored the 6th annual banquet to benefit the Cpl. James Mott Memorial Scholarship Fund to College of the Ozarks. During the banquet, the League's members took the opportunity to honor several of their peers as Corporal of the Year, Officer of the Year, and Civilian Employee of the Year. The honorees are selected from a



number of nominated candidates based upon their exemplary service to both the Springfield Police Department and the City of Springfield over the last year.

This year's award recipients are:

Corporal of the Year:
Cpl. Andrew Barksdale
Officer of the Year:
Officer Mark Schindler
Civilian Employee of the Year:
Records Shift Leader, Paige Rodgers

In addition to the recognition of their peers, Missouri Representative Sarah Lampe,

presented each with a House of Representatives Resolution honoring them for their outstanding service.

The Springfield Police Sergeants League was formed in 2004 as a fraternal organization. Each year the League hosts a benefit banquet to support the **Cpl. James Mott Memorial Scholarship fund** to College of the Ozarks.

In 2003, Cpl. Mott, a 13-year veteran of the SPD, collapsed while on duty and later died as the result of a medical condition. The scholarship established in his memory sponsors a College of the Ozarks student pursuing law enforcement studies.

Henderson and Koumiss: nearly 60 years at City

Two employees with a combined six decades of experience recently retired.



Leon Henderson

Long-time **Park Operations Supervisor Leon Henderson** retired in March after 37 years of service with the Springfield-Greene County Park Board. Henderson has provided a systematic approach in

developing numerous standard operating procedures, best maintenance practices, and contributed years of general expertise with the direction of maintenance and operations of 102 park sites.

Since his start with the Park Board in 1973, Henderson has been involved with the development of 40 parks and led a crew of nearly 100 full-and-part-time maintenance, turf, and construction employees.

Bob Koumiss has been with the City of

Springfield for more than 22 years. His most recent position was with the Human Resources Department as the Risk Management Coordinator. Koumiss plans to spend about eight weeks this summer traveling and camping in the western United States with his family.



Bob Koumiss

MILESTONES

Service Anniversaries

35 years

Charles Parrott

Northwest Treatment
Plant Supervisor
Public Works - 04/19/75

30 years

Jodie Adams

Director of Parks and
Recreation
Parks - 04/21/80

Robert Henderson

Equipment Operator II
Public Works - 04/07/80

Jerry Wagner

Public Health Investigator II
Health - 04/15/80

25 years

Robert Legere

Senior Animal Control
Officer
Health - 04/08/85

David Shalla

Senior Designer
Public Works - 04/15/85

15 years

Jody Austin

Probation Officer
Municipal Court -
04/29/95



FOR SALE

For Sale by Owner - 102 Acres, 90% open and in permanent pasture, divided into 4 pastures, with 4 ponds, with pole barn. Approximately 3/4 mile road frontage on two sides, 3/4 mile from Stockton Lake, located on SW corner of State Hwy 123 and State Hwy 215 (East), \$2,000 per acre, will not divide. Contact Bob Voris, **788-2828** or **830-6769**.

2002 Pontiac Bonneville. Black with charcoal leather interior, power

Ellis Campbell

Parks Forestry Team
Leader
Parks - 04/03/95
Vicki Hilton
Land Development
Inspector
Building Development -
04/09/95
Michael Inman
Collection Center
Coordinator
Public Works - 04/29/95

10 years

Jennifer Charleston

Police Corporal
Police - 04/18/00
Tammy Phillips
Public Health Nurse
Health - 04/03/00

5 years

Shawn Schroeder

Assistant Director of
Aviation-Operations
Airport - 04/04/05

Craig Hunter

Zoo Keeper
Parks - 04/02/05

Curtis Cantrell

Adam Carter
James Frieze
Chris Gardner

Brandon Graff

Scott Guccione
Aaron Lile
Matthew Lyon
Morris Moore
Garett Raney
Jerome Schiman
Daniel Speights
Chad Sullivan
Firefighters
Fire - 04/04/05
Daniel Jones
Utility Worker
Parks - 04/25/05
Chuck Cowan
Aircraft Services Trainer
Airport - 04/04/05

Welcome

Michelle Ivey

Telecommunicator -
Emergency
Communications
Kathryn Towns Jeter
Public Health Information
Administrator - Health
Benjamin Wahl
Utility Worker - Airport

Promotions

David Carter

Truck Company Captain -
Fire

Chad Davis

Fire Equipment Operator -
Fire

Dustin Keyes

Craftsworker -
Public Works
Terry Lutz
Equipment Operator II -
Public Works
David Pennington
Assistant Fire Chief - Fire
Howard Vasher
Plant Shift Supervisor -
Public Works
Robert Woody
Battalion Chief - Fire

Retirements

Joe Bergant

Electrical Inspector
Building Development -
11 years

Betty Browning

Plant Operator II
Public Works - 30 years

Steve Haeffling

Police Corporal
Police - 16 years

Michael King

Maintenance Worker
Public Works - 14 years

Randall Latch

Police Sergeant
Police - 20 years

Earl Newman

Assistant Director of
Public Works
Public Works - 11 years

everything, heated seats, built in radar detector (\$1,200), new front brakes. 83,000 miles. Vehicle is very sharp. Asking \$6800. Contact Mona at **299-0976**. Email: brakeformadco88@yahoo.com.

AKC registered Australian Shepherds. Blue and Red Merles, Black tris and bis. Price ranges from \$450 to \$600. Contact Mona at **299-0976**, or e-mail at brakeformadco88@yahoo.com.

SERVICES

SPRING CLEANING! Professional powerwashing, gutter cleaning, yard cleanup. Free estimates. Call John at **742-2347** or **766-1754**.

Quilting Services. Long arm quilting, very

reasonable rates. Would you like to have a baby quilt made? How about a t-shirt quilt for a special grad? Call Carolyn at **830-6301**, or e-mail ltrsotr@netscape.net for quotes.

Need work done around the house? Small projects to major remodels, no job too big or small. 10 years experience, references available. Contact Patrick at **268-5633**.

Online Computers can handle viruses; data backup; consultation and installation of new hardware and software; and Wi-Fi for your personal computer. Call Jason Hicks at **569-3884**.

Grizzley Mountain Saw Works - hand-crafted wood art, custom stump carving. Send e-mail to: favorite848@hotmail.com, or call **742-1888**.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1 Paul Bles PW	Eric Partenheimer PRK	Tina Sides MC	Justin Merritt FR
Chris Hanks PRK	Elizabeth Turner BDS	James Slaughter HL	Arolin Thomas PW
Olivia Hough PDV	Kristina Webster 911	Stewart Acosta AIR	28 Alan Cummins PRK
David Johnson 911	Chester Wheeler PW	18 Kirk Broberg POL	Karen Prescott HL
Patricia Rader PRK	9 Betsy Beck POL	Clinton Cochran POL	Thomas Gottman PRK
Michael Verdugo PW	Sally Payne WD	Bethany Gates PRK	29 Svetlana Chegarnov PRK
2 James Calhoon POL	Marla Miller POL	Wilda Taylor WD	Mary Mannix Decker FN
Lisa Jump 911	10 Laura Bates PRK	Jennifer Turner PW	30 Ben Basham FR
Sarah Limb HL	11 Lori Chafin PW	Matthew Wommack AIR	Betty Browning PW
Brandon Manczuk PW	Thomas Breashears PW	19 Alford Berry AIR	Michelle Ivey 911
Stacey Parton POL	Stanley Horton AIR	Jason Bisby POL	Fred McConkey PRK
Alyssa Teeslink 911	Loryn Radford PRK	Regina Riddle PRK	Donald Mitchell POL
Jamey Thomas POL	Nathan Tiller PW	Jason Wells FR	Alexander Montgomery FR
3 Deb Fraley PW	12 James Abbott FN	20 Stephanie Gott PW	Chadwick White POL
Nell Huff WD	Brandi Bourey PRK	Lavena Pilgrim HL	
4 Terry Allen PW	Daniel Gammill PRK	21 Curtis Cantrell FR	
Wesley Archer PRK	Roger Moore POL	Kurt Priebe FR	
Ronald Cole POL	Troy Smith POL	Michael Blumreich PRK	
Sandra Freeman PRK	13 Rebecca Anders HL	Mike Stafford PW	
Rachele Huett POL	Melissa Carter FN	22 Amy Davis 911	
Eric Morgan POL	Crystal Dorser BDS	Bob Hosmer PDV	
Jason Rust POL	Jon Freeman PW	Linda McKaig WD	
Melody Saul POL	Julie Gimlin PW	Jennifer Schofield HR	
James Schudy AIR	Stacy Hannaford HR	Kesha Schreiber PRK	
Jackson Thompson PRK	Christine Rodgers POL	Holly Tucker POL	
Lee Tiehen PW	Justin Wilson PRK	23 Brian Crum POL	
5 Bobby Berry PW	Clay Dodson HL	Warren Bagwell PRK	
Tracy Campbell PRK	14 Morris Moore FR	Richard Curbow PW	
John Erwin PW	Mark Schindler POL	Steve Shanholtzer PW	
Susan Potter ART	Robert Uckele PRK	Tanner Westerfield POL	
6 Timothy Gerkey FR	15 Lisa Harley CC	Brad Shaffer PW	
Terry Moore FN	Barry Routh POL	24 Myron Walton PW	
Jeanie Priebe POL	David Hightower FR	Matthew Farmer POL	
Jonathan Shuck POL	Shawn McClure POL	25 Kevin Dill IS	
7 Shelby Allen PW	Judy Cano WD	Marty Thomas PW	
Gary Campbell PRK	16 Robert Felber ART	Robert Cantrell PRK	
Belinda Davis PRK	Jaclyn Labby PRK	26 Chris Barb POL	
Lawrence Demster PW	Richard Mayer PRK	Kenneth Gaunt PRK	
Darrell Rader POL	Katie Nichols PRK	Christopher Mumm AIR	
Todd Thornhill MC	Lori Stubbeman FN	Samantha Peterson PRK	
Greg Wheelen POL	Nathaniel Watts PRK	27 Gary Birum IS	
8 Alex Belote PRK	17 Kelly Ash FR	Martin Gugel PW	
Bannus Chaudoin PRK	Eric Reece POL	Aaron Lile FR	
Kenneth Edmonds PW	Shannon Kinney PRK	Scott Menzer FN	
Kathleen Hufford POL			

Important Dates

March 20 – First day of spring

April 1 - Census Day

April 20 – Police/Fire retirees meeting; 6:30 p.m., Heritage Cafeteria, 1364 E. Battlefield Road

April 21 - Administrative Professionals Day

April 22 - Earth Day

Abbreviations

911	Emergency Comm.
AIR	Airport
ART	Art Museum
BDS	Building Dev.
CC	City Clerk
CM	City Manager
EM	Emergency Mgt.
FN	Finance
FR	Fire
HL	Health
HR	Human Resources
IS	Info. Systems
LAW	Law
MC	Municipal Court
OG	Ozark Greenways
PRK	Parks
PDV	Planning & Dev.
DPI	Public Information
POL	Police
PW	Public Works
WD	Workforce Dev.

Designate beneficiaries with Human Resources

Have you had a change in your life such as the birth or adoption of a child, a change in marital status, or set up a trust? If so, you may need to update your beneficiary designations for your City benefits.

If you wish to verify your current beneficiaries for any of the benefits mentioned above, you may come to Human Resources and ask to review your personnel file. All current designation forms are in your individual file.

Forms to make changes to your current beneficiary designation for life insurance, deferred compensation plan or LAGERS retirement benefits are available in Human Resources. You may also change your deferred compensation plan beneficiary designation by accessing your account on-

line at <http://icmarc.org>. The LAGERS beneficiary change form may be printed from the LAGERS Web site at <http://molagers.org>. The completed LAGERS form must have a witness signature and should be submitted to Human Resources.

SPOA and IAFF members should contact their union representative to make changes to their life insurance beneficiary.

Another very important document that all employees should have in their personnel file is the final paycheck Designation of Beneficiary. This document identifies the person that you want to receive your last paycheck in the event of your death. If you die while working for the City of Springfield and do not have this designation on file, your family must

obtain a court order for the City to release your final pay check.

The final paycheck Designation of Beneficiary Form is available electronically on CityShare. On the left side in the Documents section, click on forms, then on Human Resources, then on Designation of Beneficiary. You may also obtain this form from the Human Resources Department by calling **864-1607** or stopping by the HR front desk in the Busch Building. Keep in mind that this beneficiary designation must be notarized.

Contact **Peggy Thompson**, Senior Human Resources Specialist, at **864-1608** or via the City's e-mail for questions related to your benefits.

Simple online tool helps assess health risks

The Springfield-Greene County Health Department invites you to learn about your personal risk for conditions associated with high blood pressure.

Please take a few moments to participate in the online risk calculator, which will determine your risk for heart attack, heart failure, stroke and kidney disease. Once your risk for these diseases is calculated, you can choose to modify any or all of the following: weight, activity, nutrition, salt intake and alcohol consumption and your risks for the

development of these diseases will be recalculated.

Your personalized report can then be printed and when presented to the Health Education Office of the Health Department, you may choose one of the following items as a thank you for your participation: a portion plate to assist with portion control, a Stop and Go Fast Food Nutrition guide or an insulated lunch sack. When finished with the risk calculator, we ask that you please complete the short feedback survey at the top of the homepage

so we can assess the benefits of this project.

The risk calculator can be found online at: www.heart.org/missouriproject, and is made possible through the American Heart Association, in partnership with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program.

If you encounter any problems or need assistance, please contact **Cathy Gaw** at **864-1667** or **Rebecca Ray** at **864-1297**.

■ POLLEN from page 1.

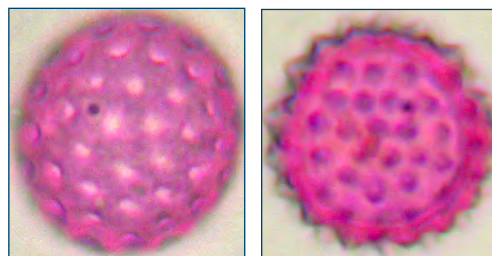
& Immunology. She supervises her colleagues **Jessica Martin**, **Sharon Smith** and **Machelle Petit** when it comes to the daily pollen counts. Together the lab staff carries out several types of services besides pollen counts, including water and milk testing.

The pollen process begins by placing a slice of specialized tape around a cylinder inside a device called a Burkhard. Once enclosed inside the Burkhard, the cylinder slowly rotates like a clock over the course of 24 hours. A small slot in a fixed position allows air to flow into the Burkhard and over the tape inside, trapping the pollen.

The Burkhard is then placed into a kind of specialized weathervane located on the roof of the Health Department building in Government Plaza. This ensures that the device is always facing into the wind, gathering particles that ride on the gusts.

"When the winds are strong, (pollen)

can blow in from as far away as Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado and even Florida," Adams says. "Even if the plants aren't growing here now, it can blow in from other areas."



Can you tell the difference between these two pollen particles? It takes a trained eye to get an accurate count for the daily pollen report.

Each morning the tape is changed. Being on the roof for a few minutes on a nice day is one of the perks of the job, Adams says. Tests begin in early March and run through

late autumn.

Then comes the real test for Adams and her co-workers. Using a microscope, they must identify and count the particles they see. Sounds easy enough until you consider just how similar most pollen particles look. The lab scientists are looking for pores, textures and furrows in the tiny orbs they see through the microscope. They use a thick book of photographs for reference. Mold is counted as well, although it is a separate tally.

It can get tedious.

"Sometimes it can take up to two and a half hours to do the count," Adams says.

The count is posted by 10:30 a.m. daily on the Health Department's Web site at www.springfieldmo.gov/health under the heading "Air Quality & Pollen Count." The information reflects the previous day's count, and is not a forecast.

-Mike Brothers, Public Information

In Brief

Kite Fest March 27

The Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden at Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park, 2400 S. Scenic Ave., will open for the season by hosting the 7th annual Cherry Blossom Kite Festival from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., Saturday, March 27.

Admission to the Festival is free for all ages. Bring your own kite, or a limited quantity of kite-making kits for younger children are available for \$3.

The Springfield-Greene County Park Board's SPARC (Schools, Parks Are Reaching Communities) section and Springfield Regional Arts Council (SRAC) will announce winners of kite design and kite building competitions at noon.

The Kite Festival is presented by Springfield Sister Cities Association (SSCA), Springfield-Greene County Park Board, and SRAC. For more information, call 864-1191.

Sales tax update

The City reported earlier this month that the March sales tax check was down nearly 18 percent from the same month a year ago.

Since receiving that initial news, however, the Finance Department learned from the state Department of Revenue that timing issues may have affected the amount of the March sales tax. Because the revenue from retailers was due on a Saturday, and February is already a short month, the DOR was unable to process all of the tax submissions in time to include them on the March check.

City Manager Greg Burris said he now plans to wait until mid-April to make recommendations to the City Council about how to address the actual third-quarter budget shortfall. He said he wants to include revenue streams from City Utilities' PILOTs, Municipal Court fees, building permit fees, etc., to get a firmer estimate of the annual budget after the third quarter.

Ag Day on the Farm

The Rutledge-Wilson Farm Community Park, 3825 W. Farm Road 146, will kick off more than 30 special

events/programs for the 2010 calendar year with the inaugural National Ag Day event from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, March 20.

The event will highlight American agriculture, including how necessities like food, fiber, clothing and energy originate and make their way to the consumer. Entry is free to the event. Some activities have small fees.

Ag Day highlights include: a farmers market, tractors on display, hayrides, wagon rides, pony rides, food and more. For a complete listing of all 2010 Farm Park events, view the PDF document at <http://bit.ly/RWFarm10> or call 837-5949.

Spotlight on City

The Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau presented its 2010 Salute to Travel & Tourism awards Feb. 18. The Spotlight Award winner was the **Springfield-Greene County Park Board**. The Spotlight Award is presented to an individual, business or organization not usually considered part of the travel and tourism industry for noteworthy contributions in advancing travel and tourism in the Springfield area. The Diplomat Award winner was the **Springfield-Branson National Airport Board**. The Diplomat Award is presented to a government official, organization or employee who has provided significant support to the Springfield area travel industry.

Open lab

The Health Department Lab is holding an open house, and the public and all employees are invited. The open house will be held from 9 a.m. to noon on Thursday, March 25. The lab is located inside the main Springfield-Greene County Health Department Building at 227 E. Chestnut Expressway.

Laboratory Services has a recently remodeled and more efficient lab space. This is your chance to visit the lab and experience first-hand the variety of services provided there with a one-on-one tour. Some of the services done by the lab include pollen accreditation and sampling (see story page 1), milk testing, water testing and medical testing. For more information, call 864-1672.

Do You Know...?

A Q & A of City of Springfield employees. To suggest a colleague for a "Do You Know...?" profile, email mbrothers@springfieldmo.gov.



Jessica Martin

Lab Scientist, Health. Jessica has worked for the City for almost three years.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

A veterinarian, until I shadowed my vet and saw him handling the ovaries of a cocker spaniel that he was spaying. I dropped that dream real quick.

What was your favorite TV show as a child?

Star Trek. I always thought that Spock was awesome with the whole Vulcan nerve-pinch thing, having all the answers when asked a question, and the fact that he had green blood.

What won't you eat?

I won't eat seafood, and I won't eat anything rare or medium rare that could have been moving seconds earlier.



Clay Dodson

Air Quality Specialist, Health. Clay has worked for the City for three months.

Who had the greatest influence on you during your childhood?

Other than my parents, and my older sister, I would have to say my paternal grandfather. He was a great man. A WWII veteran and POW who contracted polio soon after returning home, he had minimal use of his legs. However, he never let it slow him down. He was always on the go with his grandkids and he kept a beautiful yard and garden, scooting around on the ground with a spade while planting and weeding.

What was your favorite TV show as a child?

That's easy – Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, by a landslide.

What are you most proud of?

My children. They are both incredible.

Who do you quote?

G.K. Chesterton, Mark Twain, Groucho Marx and others.



WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Awards & Recognition

I got a call the other day from a distraught young woman. She had just come out of the Greene County jail building and had a \$100 in her hand. It was extremely windy that day, and the bill got whisked away from her. She tried to run it down, but it ended up going down the storm drain. She said she went back into the jail and they told her it was simply gone.

She called our office and wanted to know if we could send a crew out to retrieve it. I didn't think there was a chance that she'd ever see that money again, but I transferred her over to Public Works Streets Division anyway.

I called **Julia Snyder**, the dispatcher at Streets, back the next day. She said the crew was sent out and they retrieved said one hundred dollar bill. The lady was contacted and immediately came to pick it up! The two men who retrieved the \$100 bill were **John Erwin** and **Chris Countryman**. They're in the Bridge and Waterways Dept. and their Supervisor is **Larry Teel**.

Days like this make you proud to be a part of this team called: City of Springfield Employees!

Theresa Slagle, Public Information

To: **Sharon Smith**, Lab scientist, Health Department

Thank you for all that you do. You are awesome! More people should have the customer service skills that you do. Maybe you should teach lessons.

Just wanted to let you know that you are appreciated.

Steve and Dana, MHI-LLC

Former Springfield-Greene County Park Board



Dan Kinney

Director Dan Kinney was selected for induction to the second class of the Missouri Park and Recreation Association's Hall of Fame. The presentation took place during the 2010 MPRA annual conference held in early March.

Kinney retired from the Springfield-Greene County Park Board in January 2006 after serving 35 years with the department. He served from 1971 to 1977 as Springfield's Assistant Parks Director, and in 1977 was named Director, replacing retiring Director **Jim Ewing**.

Kinney led the department through a number of initiatives, including a successful Parks Sales Tax Initiative in 2001. The department received numerous awards during Kinney's tenure, including the 2000 National Gold Medal Award from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), selection as a Sports Illustrated "SportsTown USA" in 2003, the Edward H. Bean Award for Dickerson Park Zoo's elephant management program, and the Spotlight Award from the Governor's Conference on Tourism.

To: The crews of **A-shift on Engine 1, Squad 1, Truck 2, Truck 3, Engine 7, and Rescue 8**.

The great majestic strength of the eagle represents each and every one of you. But to those of us that behold you ... we are in awe.

In the memory of my mother, Carol A. Martin, 910 S. Rogers, Feb. 14, 2010. May God Bless you and with God's speed send you safely home.

You are my heroes, Cheryl Martin

Fire Captain Eric Latimer has been nominated to serve on the State Advisory Council on Emergency Medical Services by Gov. Jay Nixon. He is awaiting confirmation by the State Senate.

To: **Ralph Rognstad**, Director of Planning

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me the other day regarding my thesis topic. Your first-hand experience and information on citizen participation will be invaluable to my thesis. Your departments' online offerings really are impressive. As a result of the great information that I received from **Louise Whall** and yourself, I have decided to use Springfield as one of my five case studies. Thanks again.

Best, Liz Geare, Auburn University

To: **Steve Shanholtzer**, Public Work

Thank you for seeing all this sanitary sewer project on North Campbell Avenue through, and approving the change. It really looks like a fine plan.

Best regards, John Eck